1275 Chapel Street
New Haven, Conn.
June 21, 1969

Mr. Daniel Ellsberg
1700 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

Dear Mr. Ellsberg:

I am working on a Ph.D. in the Southeast Asia Program at Cornell University and plan to do my dissertation on contemporary Vietnamese politics. I've done some digging into the last months--and especially the last weeks--of the Diem regime, and in this regard Richard Barnet, my former mentor at the Institute for Policy Studies, told me about the story of the cable from Washington urging that the coup be expedited as soon as possible. The letter from Lodge denying the existence of any such cable, which Barnet mentioned in his book, was addressed to me. I'm wondering if I could talk with you at some length about this period when and if I can make it to the West Coast. In other words, how free would you feel to talk about it?

Also, is it possible to get a copy of your paper, "The Day Loc Tien was Pacified"? Cornell's library doesn't have it, and I'd be willing to pay for it if necessary.

I hope that it will be possible to talk with you sometime about the Diem overthrow. I have already acquired a good deal of information about it and I'm considering writing something about it sometime in the futu re.

Sincerely yours,

D Gareth Porter

D. Gareth Porter

August 13, 1969 L-15335

Mr. D. Gareth Porter
1275 Chapel Street
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Porter:

I am happy to hear that someone is doing work on contemporary Vietnamese politics, a much-neglected subject and, in my opinion, one of great importance both for current and future policy and for an understanding of our past mistakes. I would like very much to hear your thinking on this subject and to see anything written you may be ready to distribute.

I would be glad to talk with you about the Diem period and other matters if you make it to this area. There are very complex problems of interpretation and inference (as to what might have been done, or even as to what did happen) and there is plenty to talk about without breaching any confidences. Incidentally, I have looked up your reference to Barnett's book, and the conjecture there seems based upon some confusion of timing or content; I know of no cable having the precise bearing implied there.

I am happy to send a copy of my paper, "The Day Loc Tien Was Pacified"; I have included a couple of others that happen to be on hand. I look forward to talking with you. (Please let me apologize for the delay in answering your letter; I have no proper excuse.) Give my regards to Dick Barnett and George Kahin.

Yours,

Daniel Ellsberg

DE:ca
Enclosures